

## **Appendix D**

# **STANDARDS FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES**

## APPENDIX D STANDARDS FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES

### A. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Standards were developed to meet resource objectives, provide for resource protection, and mitigate environmental impacts. They establish management direction and will guide Forest Service personnel as they implement the Forest Plan.

These standards were developed by the Interdisciplinary and Forest Leadership Teams using the Forest Service Manual, various handbooks, the Regional Guide for the Pacific Northwest Region, national and regional direction letters, research publications, and public input as sources of information. By using an interdisciplinary approach in developing these standards, they reflect multiple use principles.

### B. FOREST-WIDE STANDARDS AND MANAGEMENT AREA DIRECTION THAT APPLY TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

The Forest-wide standards and management area direction that apply to all alternatives (except where superseded as described below) are found in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan. The exception would be for the No Change Alternative, which would not necessarily have standards that comply with current requirements.

### C. STANDARDS WHICH ARE DIFFERENT FOR SOME ALTERNATIVES

Some standards vary by alternative. These standards are discussed below for each alternative. See Table II-4 of this Final Environmental Impact Statement for acreage by management area for the alternatives.

#### 1. Alternative NC and Alternative A

The following standards apply to both Alternatives NC and A (see additional standards for Alternative A which supersede these under Section C 2 ).

#### Forest-wide Standards

Fish and Wildlife Provide snags to support 60 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species in wildlife emphasis areas and 20 percent on other Forest lands. The Forest-wide goal is to provide snags to support 40 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species. This is based on a requirement for 135 snags per acre in wildlife emphasis areas and 45 snag per acre on other Forest lands. This does not include provisions for snag replacement trees.

#### Management Area 3 A&B

Delete standards under fish and wildlife.

#### Management Area 12

Recreation. Manage the following campgrounds to the reduced-service level: Starr, Wickiup, Parish Cabin, Idlewild, Strawberry, Trout Farm, North Fork Malheur, Big Creek, Magone Lake, Yellowjacket, and Canyon Meadows.

#### Management Area 15

Description. Management Area 15 is composed of forested and nonforested portions of the Forest which have been determined to carry higher populations of old-growth dependent and cavity-nesting wildlife species. Some of these acres are also used by elk as winter range. A variety of physical and biological environments occur as determined by soil, slope, elevation (approximately 4,000 to 7,600 feet) and climatic factors. The majority of Management Area 15 is unroaded.

Goals: Manage to improve the quality of habitat for deer and elk by optimizing the total cover to forage ratio. Improve stream habitat and water quality to produce high-quality fish habitat. Leave higher levels of wildlife trees and old-growth timber stands than in the surrounding areas to better meet the needs of dependent species.

Standards: The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter IV, Section E, of the Forest Plan applies to the Forest Management Area except where superseded by the following standards.

Wildlife Habitat Management:

1. Manage streamside areas by following streamside management unit guidelines
2. Schedule fish habitat improvements to enhance fish spawning, rearing, and migration habitat. Improvements will include instream structures, channel changes, and riparian revegetation.
3. Manage hiding and thermal cover to maintain optimum big-game total cover to forage ratios
4. Maintain a minimum of 10 percent of all acres in each of the 5 seral stages
5. Provide adequate timbered acres in an old-growth condition to meet minimum viable population of dependent species
6. Maintain wildlife tree levels at 60 percent of the potential level of cavity-nesting population, exclusive of provisions for snag replacements

Range:

1. Assure sufficient forage for wildlife when determining livestock needs
2. Locate and undertake improvement projects that are neutral or beneficial to wildlife species

Timber:

1. Lands in Management Area 15 are classified as both "suitable" and "unsuitable" for timber management. The nonforest grasslands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management.
2. Schedule timber harvest on "suitable" lands. Design timber harvests to achieve desired combination of cover and forage. Salvage will be allowed for those areas not in the "suitable" land base.
3. Determine the silvicultural system to be used based on an on-the-ground, site-specific analysis.

Water, Soil, and Air:

1. Meet Oregon water quality standards through the application of best management practices. Exceptions must be based on scientific rationale, fully maintain existing beneficial use of water, and be approved through an environmental assessment.

### Minerals and Geology

- 1 Ensure that operating plans emphasize protection of and/or mitigation of impacts to riparian-dependent species and that water quality standards are met through the application of best management practices
- 2 Ensure that operating plans affecting anadromous fish habitat comply with applicable Oregon water quality standards pertaining to water quality and timing of instream activity

### Facilities

- 1 Major and minor access road construction and reconstruction are permissible when these roads are necessary to meet the multiple use objectives on adjacent lands
- 2 Close roads when necessary to meet wildlife habitat goals
3. Reconstruct and maintain trails for access and to meet adjacent management area objectives, public safety, and reduction of environmental damage

### Protection

- 1 Control, contain, or confine wildfires The specifics on implementation shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk Specify decision criteria in the fire management action plan
2. Use planned ignitions when within prescription to enhance resource values

## **2. Alternative A**

The following standards are add or supersede those listed under Alternative NC (see Sec C 2 )

### **Forest-wide Standards**

Fish and Wildlife Provide snags and snag replacements to support 60 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species in wildlife emphasis areas and 40 percent on other Forest lands The Forest-wide goal is to provide snags to support over 40 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species This will require more snag habitat than under previous land management plans (ie , No Change Alternative), the difference being provision for replacement snags

### **Management Area 3 A&B**

Schedule timber harvest in riparian zones for all Class I, II, and III streams classified as "suitable" for timber management as defined in Table II-4 of FEIS

### **Management Area 15**

#### Wildlife Habitat Management.

- 1 Manage open road densities, forage and cover to maintain optimum big-game habitat effectiveness, using the Habitat Effectiveness Index.
- 2 Maintain wildlife tree levels in perpetuity at 60 percent of the potential level of cavity-nesting population.

**3. Alternative  
B-Modified**

Forest-wide Standards	<p><u>Fish and Wildlife.</u> Provide snags and snag replacements to support 80 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species in riparian zones, at 50 percent adjacent to riparian zone areas, and 40 percent on other Forest lands. The Forest-wide goal is to provide snags to support about 40 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species.</p> <p>Provide total cover for big-game animals at 40 percent plus or minus 15 percent on spring-summer-fall range, with a minimum of 5 percent in satisfactory cover</p>
Management Area 3 A&B	Schedule timber harvest in riparian zones for all Class I, II, and III streams classified as "suitable" for timber management as defined in Table II-4 of FEIS
Management Area 4A	Delete standards under fish and wildlife.
Management Area 6A	The Berry Creek area will be managed for a wilderness primitive untrailed experience. The remainder of the wilderness will be managed for a wilderness semiprimitive experience.
Management Area 12	<u>Recreation:</u> Manage the following campgrounds to the reduced-service level: Starr, Wickiup, Parish Cabin, Idlewild, Strawberry, Trout Farm, North Fork Malheur, Big Creek, Magone Lake, Yellowjacket, and Canyon Meadows.

**4. Alternative  
C-Modified**

Forest-wide Standards	<p><u>Fish and Wildlife.</u> Provide snags and snag replacements to support 80 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species in riparian areas, 50 percent within 600 feet of riparian areas, and 60 percent on other Forest lands. The Forest-wide objective is to provide snags to support 60 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species. No timber harvest is to be scheduled in riparian areas</p>
Management Area 3 A&B	Lands in Management Area 3 (A and B) are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management. No timber harvest is to be scheduled for these lands. Salvage will be allowed for those areas in the "unsuitable" land base
Management Area 4B	<p><u>Description:</u> Management Area 4B is composed of nonclassified portions of the Forest which provide winter habitat for Rocky Mountain elk. These areas are primarily below 5,200 feet in elevation and include nonforested grasslands, bitterbrush and mountain mahogany brushfields, and timbered lands. Nonforested areas are generally on southern and western aspects. Landtypes and slopes vary</p> <p><u>Goals:</u> Enhance the quality of the winter range habitat for deer and elk through timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and other management practices.</p> <p><u>Standards:</u> The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter IV, Section E, of the Forest Plan applies to Management Area 4B except where superseded by the following standards:</p>

### Recreation

1. Manage for recreation ranging from semiprimitive to roaded modified
2. Discourage winter recreation activities
3. Close areas to use if harassment of big game occurs.

### Range

1. Prioritize forage utilization for big-game species, at levels agreed upon between the Forest and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, for each area
2. Provide forage to meet the needs of that portion of the 100-head Murderers Creek wildhorse herd that graze on the Malheur National Forest
3. Manage livestock grazing at a level to utilize available forage while maintaining plant vigor
4. Schedule cost-efficient range improvements to improve range condition when and where needed
5. Design improvements to protect areas and/or to distribute livestock use

### Wildlife.

1. Design and implement management activities to maintain at least 80 percent of the habitat carrying capacity (equivalent to HEI of 0.7 using the Habitat Effectiveness Index) of the winter range per decade through the planning horizon
2. Manage cover to meet size and distribution criteria as described in "Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests - Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington," Agricultural Handbook 553 (Thomas et al., 1979)
3. Manage so that a minimum of 15 percent of the forested area will be retained in satisfactory cover. If this is not attainable because of low natural potential, create or maintain the highest percentage satisfactory cover attainable
4. Manage to maintain or establish a level of vegetative diversity at a minimum level of 10 percent of the total of each of the five seral stages through the planning horizon as shown below

<u>Seral Stage</u>	<u>Age</u>
I Grass/Forb	0 to 5 years
II Shrub/Seedling	5 to 10 years
III Pole/Sapling	11 to 40 years
IV Immature	41 to 80 years
V & VI Mature/Overmature	81 years plus

Timber:

1. Lands in Management Area 4B are classified as both "suitable" and "unsuitable" for timber management. The nonforest grasslands and seral brushfields are "unsuitable" for timber management. Schedule timber harvest on the portion of the Management Area classified as "suitable" for timber management.
2. Design scheduled timber harvests on suitable lands to achieve a Habitat Effectiveness Index of 0.7 (80% percent of potential site capability), of which a minimum of 15 percent of the land area will be maintained as satisfactory cover.
3. Design silvicultural prescriptions to maintain and improve thermal cover conditions on timber lands. Determine the silvicultural system to be used based on an approved, site-specific silvicultural prescription (see Appendix E).
4. Limit activities between December 1 to April 1 when needed to reduce wildlife harassment.
5. Design silvicultural prescriptions to provide for a prolonged period (10-20 years) of browse production. Use site-preparation practices to stimulate browse production for wildlife.
6. Extend rotations and defer commercial thinning where big-game cover is below an acceptable amount.
7. Utilize uneven-aged management timber harvest regimes where applicable.

Minerals and Geology:

1. Stipulate limiting activity between December 1 through April 1 in mineral leases if necessary to provide for wintering needs of big game. Negotiate the same limitation in operating plans for locatable mineral development.

Facilities:

1. Manage transportation systems to eliminate stress on wintering big game.

Protection:

1. Control, contain, and confine wildfire. The strategy selected and specifics on implementation shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Specific decision criteria shall be in the fire management action plan.
2. Use planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, to achieve resource management objectives.

Management  
Area 6A

The Berry Creek area will be managed for a wilderness primitive untrailed experience. The remainder of the Wilderness will be managed for a wilderness primitive trailed experience.

Management  
Area 6C

The Pine Creek Proposed Wilderness will be managed for a wilderness semiprimitive experience. See the standards for Management Area 6A in the Forest Plan for a description of management in a wilderness semiprimitive area.

## 5. Alternative F

Forest-wide Standards	<p><u>Fish and Wildlife</u> Provide snags and snag replacements to support 80 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species in riparian areas, 50 percent within 600 feet of riparian areas, and 40 percent on other Forest lands. The Forest-wide objective is to provide snags in perpetuity to support slightly more than 40 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species.</p> <p>Provide total cover for big-game animals at 40 percent plus or minus 15 percent on spring-summer-fall range, with a minimum of 5 percent in satisfactory cover.</p>
Management Area 3 A&B	Schedule timber harvest in riparian zones for all Class I, II, and III streams classified as "suitable" for timber management as defined in Table II-4 of FEIS.
Management Area 4A	Delete standards under fish and wildlife.

## 6. Alternative I

Forest-wide Standards	<p><u>Fish and Wildlife</u> Provide snags and snag replacements to support 60 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species in riparian areas, and 40 percent on other Forest lands. The Forest-wide objective is to provide snags to support slightly more than 40 percent of potential populations of snag-dependent species.</p>
Management Area 3(A&B)	Management Area 3 (A and B) contains lands classified as both "suitable" and "unsuitable" for timber management. No timber harvest is to be scheduled in the interior one-third of all riparian zones in Class I, II, III or IV streams that support significant riparian vegetation. In addition, no timber harvest is to be scheduled within the area of riparian influence of any Class I or II anadromous streams. Salvage harvests are allowed in the lands classified as "unsuitable" for timber management.
Management Area 12	<u>Recreation</u> Manage all 20 campgrounds to the full service level.
Management Area 13	Provide old-growth replacement stands at one-half of the frequency of "dedicated" old growth stands within the managed forest land base. Old-growth replacement stands are considered "suitable" for timber management.
Management Areas 20A & 20B	<p><u>Description</u> Management Areas 20A and 20B are composed of unroaded portions of the Forest which provide wildlife habitat for Rocky Mountain elk, as well as dispersed, primitive recreation. These areas are typically indicative of the natural conditions found on the Forest in grasslands, bitterbrush and mountain mahogany brushfields, and timbered lands. Nonforested areas are generally on southern and western aspects. Landtypes and slopes vary.</p> <p><u>Goals</u> Maintain the primitive recreational experience and maintain or enhance the quality of wildlife habitat, using the Habitat Effectiveness Index for guidance.</p> <p><u>Standards</u> The management area direction included in Chapter IV, section E, of the Forest Plan applies to this management area except where superseded by the following standards:</p> <p><u>Recreation</u> Manage for dispersed semiprimitive recreation with emphasis on a high-quality big-game hunting experience.</p>



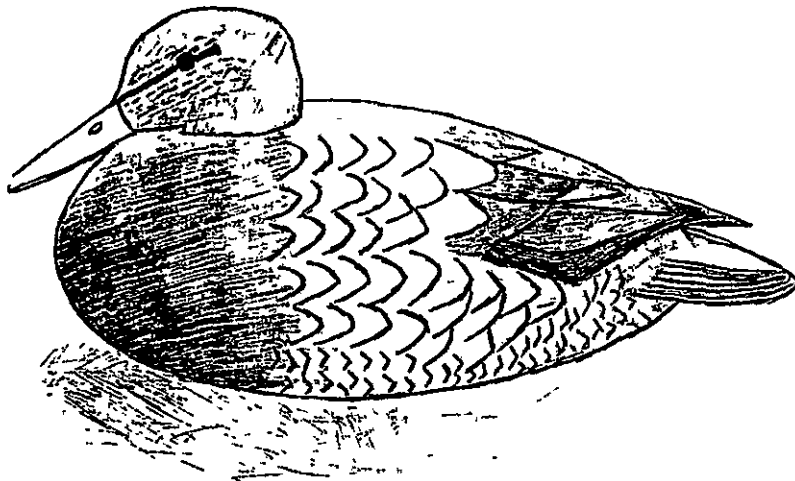
Range. Prioritize forage utilization for big-game species. Maintain livestock grazing at levels commensurate with providing available forage while ensuring plant vigor. Coordinate forage allocation in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Wildlife Commission for each area.

Fish and Wildlife: Manage to provide for high quality wildlife and fish habitat and water quality. Manage elk habitat to provide at least 70 percent of elk habitat effectiveness while allowing for scheduled timber harvest.

Timber: Timber harvest is to be designed to maintain a natural appearing landscape and high-quality wildlife habitat. Use of uneven-aged management and/or extended rotations is emphasized where applicable, based on site specific silvicultural prescriptions, in conjunction with wildlife habitat and visual recreation objectives.

#### Management Area 21

These lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management. No timber is scheduled on these lands, although harvest is not precluded. Timber harvest may occur to accomplish wildlife habitat objectives, as established in a project level environmental analysis.



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